

THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A communication apparatus that performs data communication via a communication network, said apparatus comprising:
 - a packet transmitter adapted to transmit image data in packets and to transmit sound data in packets, wherein the sound data is divided into packets of invariable packet size and the image data is divided into packets of variable packet size;
 - a detector adapted to detect an interval of sound data to be transmitted in packets; and
 - a controller adapted to decrease the variable packet size of the packets of image data to be transmitted, in proportion to a decrease in the interval of sound data to be.
2. (Previously Presented) A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said controller changes the packet size of the image data gradationally according to the interval of the sound data to be transmitted in packets.
3. (Previously Presented) A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said controller changes the packet size of the image data according to whether the amount of the sound data to be transmitted in packets is zero or non-zero.
4. (Previously Presented) A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising an image input unit for inputting the image data by photographing an image.

5. (Previously Presented): A communication apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said image input unit includes one of a motion-picture camera and a still-picture camera.

6. (Previously Presented) A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a sound input unit for inputting the sound data.

7. (Previously Presented) A communication apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said sound input unit includes a microphone.

8. (Previously Presented) A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a compression unit for compressing at least one of the image data and the sound data.

9. (Previously Presented): A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a receiver for receiving image data and sound data transferred in packets;

and

a player unit for playing the image data and the sound data received by said receiver.

10. (Previously Presented) A communication apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said player unit includes an expansion unit for expanding the received image data and the received sound data.

11. (Previously Presented): A communication apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said player unit includes a display for visibly displaying an image corresponding to the received image data.

12. (Previously Presented) A communication apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said player unit includes a speaker for outputting sound corresponding to the received sound data.

13. (Previously Presented) A communication method of performing data communication via a communication network, said method comprising:

a packet transmission step of transmitting image data in packets and transmitting sound data in packets, wherein the sound data is divided into packets of invariable packet size and the image data is divided into packets of variable packet size;

a detection step of detecting an interval of sound data to be transmitted in packets; and

a control step of decreasing the variable packet size of the packets of image data to be transmitted, in proportion to a decrease in the interval of sound data to be transmitted in packets, as detected in said detection step.

14. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for performing data communication via a communication network, the program comprising:

program code for a packet transmission step of transmitting image data in packets and transmitting sound data in packets, wherein the sound data is divided into packets of invariable packet size and the image data is divided into packets of variable packet size;

program code for a detection step of detecting an interval of sound data to be transmitted in packets; and

program code for a control step of decreasing the variable packet size of the packets of image data to be transmitted, in proportion to a decrease in the interval of sound data to be transmitted in packets, as detected in the detection step.

15. (Previously Presented) A communication apparatus that performs data communication via a communication network, said apparatus comprising:

a packet transmitter adapted to transmit image data in packets and to transmit sound data in packets, wherein the sound data is divided into packets of invariable packet size and the image data is divided into packets of variable packet size;

a detector adapted to detect an amount of sound data to be transmitted in packets; and

a controller adapted to control the variable packet size of the image data based on the invariable packet size of the sound data, as detected by said detector,

wherein, when said detector detects the amount of sound data, said controller changes the packet size of the image data to be substantially equal to the packet size of the sound data, and

wherein, when said detector does not detect sound data, said controller changes the packet size of the image data to a maximum size.